

WEST HARTFORD SCREENWRITERS GROUP / MINUTES

Meeting of: 4/25/07

Moderator: Tom Murphy

Snacks: Valerie Utton

Scribe: Denning Powell

ATTENDEES:

Geoff Saunders

Denning Powell

Tessa O'Sullivan

Liz Cipollina

Rita Isaacson

Joe Cadieux

Tom Murphy

Valerie Utton

Steve Olechna

Cindy Drozd

INTROS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(1) Steve reprised the poetry-reading-cum-magic-trick he developed for the Faxon poets group, to a standing ovation. (2) Geoff continues to receive expressions of interest in his vampire saga *Rising Darkness* (reviewed by the group last year). (3) Cindy is entering a mentorship program, to be coached by Jean Scott Stawarz, who did *Pow-Wow Highway* and *Henry in Berlin*. (4) Joe reported that the group may be back in the (renovated) Main Library for the October meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION: None.

REVIEWS: None.

PRESENTATIONS:

(1) Liz presented a script-analysis structure in 15 "beats", based on Blake Snyder's book *Save the Cat*. The presentation analyzed the movie *Miss Congeniality*, showing how the movie met the 15-beat structure. Liz and Rita have used the structure to evaluate their scripts and see where the holes are (i.e., missing or deficient beats), by using index cards to organize key scenes or sequences and compare them to the structure. They recommend the process as both a good way to organize a new script and a good way to analyze and existing script for gaps.

(2) Rita presented an exercise in writing loglines, in which each member picked a favorite movie out of their memory, wrote a logline for it, and then had the group guess at what the movie was. The exercise illustrated the power of a concept condensed into a few words, and discussion followed about the types of formats (character-driven, plot-driven) that create successful loglines.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday May 30, 2007, 7:00 PM, West Hartford Senior Center. First in the queue will be Jed's script or partial script if he has it ready and is back from overseas.

Moderator: Rita Isaacson

Snacks: Cindy Drozd

~DSP 4/28/07 :-)